

with the administering, planning, development and maintenance of the trail. Any land or interest in land outside the exterior boundaries of any federally administered area would be prohibited, unless with prior consent from the owner of the land or interest in land. It would be the responsibility of the Secretary to authorize and provide interpretive programs and services, and technical assistance to State and local government and non-profit organizations.

Mr. Speaker, the primary focus of this initiative has been providing conservation and enjoyment of, public access to, and interpretation of the historic route and its resources. Historians and regional trail groups have recognized the importance of the untold stories and legacy of the events of the Chesapeake Campaign and the need for protection and interpretation of related historical resources.

H.R. 1388 commemorates the events leading up to the writing of "The Star-Spangled Banner" during the Chesapeake Campaign of the War of 1812. Along these trails are the bedrock of many events of historical significance—British invasion of Maryland, the Battle of Bladensburg, the burning of the White House, the Capitol and Washington Navy Yard, as well as the Battle for Baltimore (1814). The route of the invasion is known and documented, and the proposed trail would follow it as closely as possible.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support, as well as to encourage my colleagues to join Representative SARBANES in amending the National Trails Systems Act to designate the Star-Spangled Banner Trail in the States of Maryland and Virginia and the District of Columbia as a National Historic Trail. Visitors to this region ought to enjoy the opportunity to envision and experience this great piece of American history—the heritage and struggles that ensued during the War of 1812. The Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail Act would give recognition to the patriots whose determination to stand firm against enemy invasion and bombardment preserved this liberty for future generations of Americans.

INTRODUCTION OF THE PATH TO SUCCESS: GANG PREVENTION THROUGH COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS ACT

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 24, 2007

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Path to Success Act.

This important piece of legislation addresses a pressing social dilemma that has permeated American society, successfully wreaking havoc, fear, and violence indiscriminately in urban and rural communities alike. Gang-re-

lated offenses have peaked to astronomical numbers, making youth gangs an endemic feature of American life. Most of these gang members are engulfed in a cyclical culture of poverty, illiteracy, and homelessness which contribute to excessive recidivism rates. Youths who are particularly vulnerable for recruitment are quickly indoctrinated into lawlessness.

The bill I am introducing today authorizes the Secretary of Education to award \$20 million in grants to community colleges that agree to enter into and maintain partnerships with juvenile detention centers by providing juvenile ex-offenders with a supportive learning environment where they can attain marketable skills and credentials needed for their constructive re-entry into society. Under the bill, each community college will be encouraged to grant academic merit to eligible participants based on their distinctive academic backgrounds, learning curves, and concentration interests.

Under this bill, community colleges who apply for these grants will be responsible for facilitating the academic, psychological, and social adjustment of juvenile ex-offenders who were detained for gang related offenses. These community colleges will serve as hubs for networks among local organizations that are committed to assisting youthful offenders' successful reintegration into society.

With these grants, community colleges can work with different partners to employ intervention strategies to divert at-risk youth from crime by providing counseling, academic or vocational training, and professional development to eligible participants enrolled in the program. In fact, this legislation requires that community colleges partner with both public and private entities to facilitate internships, apprenticeships, and permanent employment opportunities for eligible participants. This feature of the outreach effort is especially relevant to ensure recidivism prevention.

At this juncture, we must set precedence on determining pragmatic measures that will mitigate gang violence. Gang violence presents an intricate challenge to communities around the United States, especially in areas where there is significant socio-economic duress. Ultimately, no one can cite the one definitive cause of community violence, poverty, neighborhood deterioration, or why Johnny cannot read. These types of contemporary problems have increasingly become more qualitatively complex.

This is exactly why we cannot afford to adopt parochial methods to mitigate juvenile delinquency. Since it is virtually impossible for one agency to unilaterally solve intractable problems, every worthwhile effort requires collaboration and partnering among organizations to resolve the issue we see before us in this day and age.

Education gives people hope and self-respect; it shows them that they can succeed by lawful means. The academic and vocational training is a critical component of this program

especially since research has shown that the typical habitual offender is a person of little or no education.

Madam Speaker, approximately 100,000 juveniles (ages 17 years and under) leave juvenile correctional facilities, State prison, or Federal prison each year. Juveniles released from secure confinement have a recidivism rate ranging from 55 to 75 percent. Even more, research has shown that the likelihood that young people will successfully transition into society increases with effective reentry and aftercare programs.

Taking a comprehensive approach is the only pragmatic solution to stopping the spread of gang violence. By promoting communal networks, this legislation provides opportunities for the community to be instrumental in administering programs designed to reduce recidivism among ex-gang offenders, and deter gang violence and membership among other at risk youths.

Juvenile delinquency is a complex phenomenon that has riveting effects. I firmly believe that this legislation will make significant progress in our battle against gang violence because it fully incorporates the community in the implementation process.

Madam Speaker, it takes a network to fight a network. In order to provide a realistic, individualized, and creative response to public problems, we must design the right network. This legislation offers guidelines to determine and develop appropriate activation tools to respond to gang violence. I hope this bill would receive the bipartisan support that it deserves. I ask for my colleagues' support and urge the swift consideration of this bill.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 24, 2007

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, because of traveling back to the States from Iraq, I missed the following votes:

(1) H.R. 404—Federal Customer Service Enhancement Act (15 minutes)—"no."

(2) H. Res. 553—Mourning the passing of former First Lady, Lady Bird Johnson, and celebrating her life and contributions to the people of the United States (5 minutes)—"yes."

(3) H. Res. 519—Honoring the life and accomplishments of renowned artist Tom Lea on the 100th anniversary of his birth (5 minutes)—"yes."

(4) Previous Question—Rule for H.R. 3074—Transportation-HUD Appropriations (5 minutes)—"no."

(5) Adoption of the Rule for H.R. 3074—Transportation-HUD Appropriations (5 minutes)—"no."